

Application No. 10/626,262

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 is canceled and claims 1 and 6 are amended.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 5 and claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from cancelled claim 5.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. In view of the amendments to the claims, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by what is asserted to be admitted prior art.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,011,222 ("Sekiya et al.).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,552,277 ("Downes").

Claims 4, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over what is asserted to be admitted prior art, in view of U.S. 4,834,662 ("Schempp") or U.S. 6,234,834 ("Tsai").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the instant application, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is submitted to be in condition for allowance. The other rejected claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Hence, the other rejected claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance as well. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge allowance of claim 15 and that claims 5 and 6 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described above, claim 1 has been amended to include the

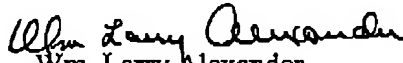
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limitations of claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 1 and is, hence, submitted to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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